

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 09, 2010**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, November 09, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Pat Rogers, Pamela Szypulski, Jane Fowler, Mary Lou McNerney, Theo Loppatto, and Gloria Farrar.

Excused members: Mary Lou Urquhart

Also present: Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

*Note: The order of the agenda was amended so that Item V: "Discussion Regarding Recognition of Civil War Anniversary in 2011" was discussed directly after Item II: "Final Review of Comprehensive Plan Input".*

**Call to Order**

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from the October 19, 2010 Meeting**

After a couple amendments, Ms. Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Loppatto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

- Ms. Loppatto gave the following report on the Archival Basics Workshop at the Lewes Public Library that she attended:

The workshop was very worthwhile and provided a sufficient amount of information, including a DVD to keep and handouts. Individuals, including public librarians, attended the workshop from all different areas.

Ms. Loppatto is looking forward to the second workshop on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Lewes Public Library. She noted that anyone who would like to attend must register.

Ms. Olmstead expressed appreciation to Ms. Loppatto for attending the workshop and presenting a report on it to the Committee.

- Ms. Olmstead said that Mr. Ray Disney is very interested in completing the final project. She encouraged the members to interview any other individuals that to be interviewed as soon as possible.

### **Final Review of Comprehensive Plan Input**

Ms. Olmstead explained that she discussed the Comprehensive Plan with Mr. Lew Killmer, Chair of the Planning Commission, and he informed her that the Planning Commission will notify CHAC if any section needs to be updated.

Ms. Olmstead asked Mr. Killmer if a section on the Oral History Project should be included in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Killmer advised that the main purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to explain Land Use, but it can broaden to other topics.

### **Discussion Regarding Recognition of Civil War Anniversary in 2011**

Ms. Farrar stated that she has attempted to contact the Delaware Curator of Education regarding the anniversary of the Civil War, but has not yet been able to reach them.

Ms. Olmstead made a suggestion to host a Cultural Event evening on the Civil War, and consider presented a film or inviting someone to do a presentation on the topic.

Ms. Olmstead advised the members can continue to think of ideas and present them at future CHAC meetings. She added to keep in mind that the event should specifically relate to Delaware and the Civil War.

*(Ms. Farrar excused herself from the meeting at this time.)*

### **Discussion Regarding Plaque For Henry Drexler**

#### *Wording*

Ms. Young presented the verbage that she drafted regarding the Plaque for Henry Drexler.

The Committee reviewed and revised the verbage to state the following:

*“(Rank) Henry Clay Drexler, on of one of Bethany’s first families, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor & the Navy Cross for attempting to save his shipmates at the cost of his own life in an explosion aboard the U.S.S. Trenton on Oct. 24, 1924.”*

#### *Type of Plaque*

Ms. Olmstead explained that she received information that the bronze brass plaque is the best type to have because it will last the longest, which is important, and it will also look attractive. The color of the plaque will be blue.

Ms. Olmstead is going to contact Healy Bros. Inc. to receive a recommendation in able to move forward. She will request a proposal of the navy plaque with the wording.

Ms. Olmstead noted that the plaque will be placed in the garden on the Neff/Church property. She added that that when Ms. Neff sold the property to the Town, she requested that a plaque be made to honor all citizens of Sussex County, Delaware who served in the war.

### **Viewing of DVD “La Liberation de Periers”**

The Committee viewed the film “La Liberation de Periers”.

After viewing the film, the Committee felt that it was informative, but decided that it would not be appropriate for showing at a Cultural Event for the following reasons:

- It would be difficult for many of the viewers to understand since all of the video captions are in French.
- There are violent images, such as photos of the war and bombings.
- Did not show enough images of what Periers, France currently looks like.

### **Discussion Regarding Possible Upcoming Cultural Events**

Ms. Olmstead suggested that it would be a good idea to recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War. She is going to include this topic on next month’s agenda.

### **Discussion Regarding Possible Additional Sites for Historical Plaques**

Ms. Olmstead explained that she has noticed additional sites in Bethany Beach that may meet the guidelines for being historical. She questioned whether identifying historical homes should be an on-going project.

The process of establishing historical homes would be the following:

- 1.) Identify the house.
- 2.) Ask Ms. Alex Alder to find out who owns the house.
- 3.) Ask owner give a brief history of the house if they are knowledgeable of it.

Ms. McNerney noted that many people are interested and intrigued by the historical plaques.

Ms. Olmstead advised the Committee members to keep an eye out for houses in the Town that would be worth pursuing in regards to having a historical plaque.

As a new project, the Committee members are going to bring addresses of houses that may be historical to the next meeting. Ms. Olmstead is also going to contact Ms. Alder to obtain contact information of the home owners.

### **Input Regarding Notecard Projects**

Ms. Szpulski gave a report on the prices that copies of the notecards would be from various copy companies.

The notecards are to be 4.25 by 5.5 inches on off-white paper.

Ms. Olmstead presented photographs of fourteen (14) different historical sites in Bethany Beach. Nine (9) sites will need to be chosen to put on the notecards.

The following locations in Bethany Beach are being considered to be on the notecards:

- Club House
- Journey's End- *located on Parkwood Street, it was built in 1927 by Bess Christian and converted into a guest house in the 1930s.*
- Christian Church
- Graham House
- Post Office
- Addy Sea- *located on Ocean View Parkway, it was built in 1902 and was the fourth of five houses built by John M. Addy. In 1935, it was converted into a guest house and is now operated as a Bed & Breakfast.*
- Seaside Inn- *located at north end of boardwalk, was built in the early 1900s and was originally called the Bellevue-Atlantic Hotel, which was wiped out by the March 1962 Nor' Eastern.*
- Lifesaving Station
- Tavern
- Errett Cottage- *one of the oldest houses in Bethany Beach, built in 1903 by William E. Errett, who is one of the original six Pittsburgh businessmen who founded Bethany Beach.*

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that only two or three bids are necessary, and that when considering bids, they should focus on competitive bids, not discounted prices.

Ms. Olmstead advised Ms. Szypulski to contact Ms. Farrar regarding copier companies.

Ms. Olmstead explained that thank you letter notecards need to be sent to the docents that worked in the Museum last summer. Ms. Szypulski is going to send Ms. Olmstead the notecards that she created, and she will write the thank you notes on them.

#### *Museum Announcements*

- Ms. Fowler donated an old photograph of the U.S. Post Office in the Town to put in the Museum.
- Ms. Olmstead stated that the award given to the Town by the American Lung Association is going to be put in the Museum.
- Mayor Garbriel Daube of Periers, France gave the Town gifts, including a "Code of Arms" and a clutchet photograph of their Town Hall to put in the Museum.
- Ms. Olmstead announced that the Town Clerk, Lisa Kail, attended a Municipal Clerk conference in Virginia Beach, in which they presented an ornament that has a picture of its town hall. The Town Manager, Cliff Graviat, asked if CHAC would be interested in creating one for the Town of Bethany Beach to use as a fundraiser. The ornaments could be in a display case on a shelf that has for-sale items.

Ms. Olmstead stated that it is possible that the ornaments can be purchased in the receptionist area.

The following items could be purchased in the Museum:

- Notecards
- Videos of storms that occurred in the Town.
- Ornaments
- The book “Bethany Beach: A Brief History” by Michael Morgan – Ms. Olmstead offered to Mr. Morgan to sell his book in the Museum.

**Date and Time for Future Meetings**

The Committee decided that all future CHAC meetings will be scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m., but the day and time will be re-scheduled if it falls on a holiday.

*Agenda Items for Next Meeting*

- A. Bring any ideas to recognize the Civil War Anniversary at a Cultural Event.
- B. Addresses for historic houses.
- C. Information on all the photographs of the historical houses.
- D. Comprehensive Plan

**Adjourn**

Ms. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Loppatto, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Lindsey Shallcross, Admin. Secretary

